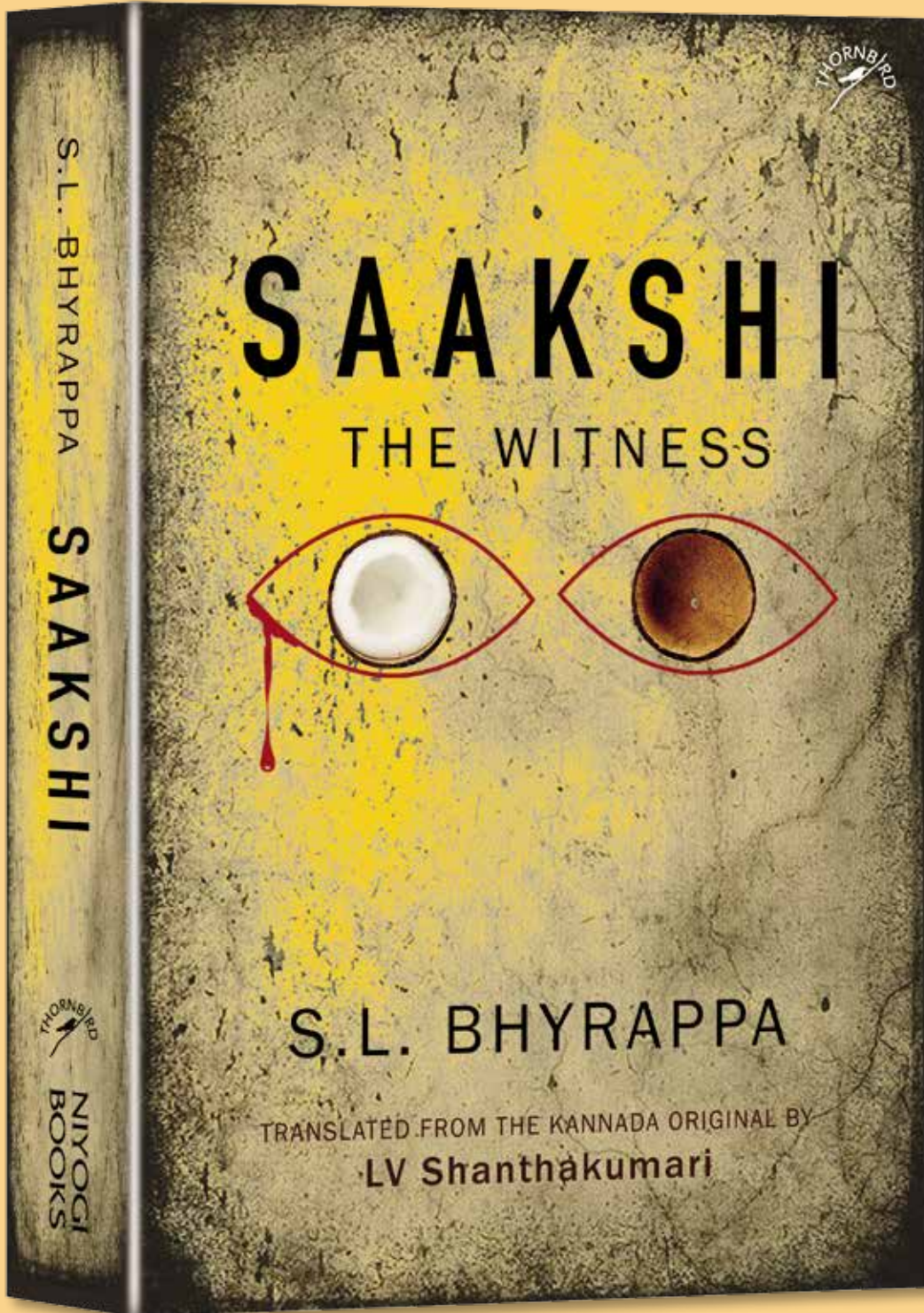


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SAAKSHI

THE WITNESS

S L Bhyrappa,
L V Shanthakumari

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Black and white
Hardback with dust jacket

Saakshi probes the roots of human values as well as the stark realities of sensual life. It explores the fundamental question whether truth is the basis of morality or morality remains the foundation of truth. Saakshi, (literal meaning the witness), uses the Puranas and Vedanta as well as Gandhian concepts to discuss the meaning of truth and its distortions through greed, sexuality and desire. The focus is on what it means to be a witness – in a courtroom, before the gods, to the lives of others, or finally to one's self.

To give form is to search meaning and to get quietude. An artist too is a witness, a saakshi; he cannot achieve anything higher within the limits of art. Bhyrappa feels the agony of this limitation of art. He is said to have experienced acute agony after writing Saakshi. The novel's characterisation, structure and artistic experience raise it to a level higher than Bhyrappa's earlier novels.



S L Bhyrappa is a Kannada novelist, whose works are immensely popular both within and beyond Karnataka. Widely regarded as one of India's foremost writers, his novels are unique in terms of theme, structure, and characterisation. Recipient of 'Saraswathi Samman' for Mandra, Bhyrappa has the honour of receiving many other awards as well. His novels are translated into almost all Indian languages including Sanskrit and English.



L V Shanthakumari is a life-member of 'Akhila Karnataka Lekakhiyara Sangha'. Her poems, articles and critical essays are published in Kannada and English magazines and journals. She has published articles in English about women saints of 12th Century.



A different light, altogether unfamiliar. Entirely different to the light which co-operates with the function of sight or vision. Not that such light was not seen in the past. How can the entire countenance be visualised in a brightness that flashes and vanishes in a moment and the source of light becomes dark even before comprehension?

Saakshi can be called a metaphysical novel dealing with the problem of truth-falsity, without solving which, the problem of other values and disvalues of life cannot be analysed

Fusion of myths, philosophy and psychological insight into human passions at their worst and at their heights gives an aura to the structure of the novel.

As a study of evil and preoccupation with purusharthas, Saakshi is a unique fiction the like of which has not appeared in any Indian language.